

Florida House of Representatives

HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

402 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Adam Hasner Majority Leader 322 The Capitol (850) 488-1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Joseph Agostini (850) 488-1993

April 22, 2010

MEASURE PROTECTING FLORIDIANS FROM INTRUSIVE HEALTH CARE MANDATES CLEARS HOUSE

~Measure protects Floridians' freedom from Washington mandates, intrusion~

TALLAHASSEE - Today, the Florida House passed a measure intended to send a clear signal to Washington that Floridians reject intrusive health care mandates. House Joint Resolution (HJR) 37 sponsored by Representative Scott Plakon (R-Longwood) passed in the Florida House by a vote of 74 to 42. Representative Plakon, sponsor of the measure, issued the following statement:

"The government has never required citizens to purchase a product from a private for-profit company as a condition of lawful residence in the United States. As elected officials, it is our duty to protect citizens from Federal and State mandates that strip away the very freedoms our forefathers risked their lives for. With this vote, the Florida House has empowered the citizens of this great State to vote in November and make their voice heard on whether medical freedom is a fundamental right that must be protected in our State Constitution. I humbly thank all of the grassroots supporters and my House colleagues for looking beyond politics by pursuing public policy that ensures that we remain free souls under God and not property of the State."

HJR 37 proposes an amendment to the State Constitution prohibiting the government from interfering with an individual's personal health care decisions. The Federal Health Care Reform legislation recently signed into law by President Obama forces uninsured individuals to purchase health insurance or face penalties imposed by the IRS.